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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5182  
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1131  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0803  
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0572  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 5726

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 000684

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/MAG, NEA/PPD, EUR/WE (NIMA ABBASZADEH), L/LEI (PETER GUTHERIE)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 8/20/2019

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [UK](#) [LY](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: RELEASE OF PAN AM 103 BOMBER MEGRAHI REF: A. Tripoli 662; B. Tripoli 660 CLASSIFIED BY: Joan Polaschik, Charge d'Affaires

- 1.(C) Summary: Libya's state-run media outlets are reporting that convicted Pan Am 103 bomber Abdel Basset al Megrahi is expected to be released.
- 2.(U) Local state-run media outlets, including "Libya Al Youm" and "Libya Watanona" are reporting on the impending release of Megrahi in a fact-based article.
- 3.(U) Libya's weekly-printed English language newspaper, "The Tripoli Post," features a front-page article profiling Megrahi's 95 year-old mother.
- 4.(U) Internet commentary from Libyan citizens in response to a UK press article on Megrahi's release primarily reflects support for the decision to release him.
- 5.(C) Comment: While "The Tripoli Post" article created a human interest story out of the experience of Megrahi's mother, other local media outlets are reporting on the release of Megrahi in a more factual manner.